GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:11
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
DIFFICULTIES FACED BY COCONUT CULTIVATORS
T. GOVINDAN;V.M. SUDHEERAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute difficulties expressed by the coconut cultivators due to the decreasing prices of coconut and its products;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations from State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide relief to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): The Government of India have directed NAFED, its nodal agency to undertake price support operation for procurement of copra under the Minimum Support Price Scheme. So far NAFED has purchased a total quantity of 1.37 lakh tonnes of Milling Copra in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The procurement is still in progress. The Government has also increased the basic import duty on copra to 35% and on coconut oil (crude and refined) to 45%.